

Address Delivered by Judge Julian W. Mack

At Opening Session of 23rd Annual Convention of Zionist Organization of America on November 25, 1920.

Fellow Zionists:

Last May, at the special Convention, dedicated to rejoicing, we celebrated the crowning by the World Powers of the Zionist efforts in the treaty with Turkey adopted at San Remo, marking the beginning of a new era in Jewish life. Let this Convention, in the spirit of that era be dedicated to Palestinian work.

The time for theoretical propaganda, the time for discussion of the principles of Zionism, is past! To continue such discussion is waste—it is worse than waste for it means we are deaf to the piercing cry, particularly of Eastern Jewry, for a home in Palestine. That is a definite and concrete problem now—the upbuilding of the Jewish Homeland. Upon this duty we must concentrate. For decades to come this will require the united effort of the whole Jewish people.

I do not purpose rehearsing to you in detail the work of the past year or of the past six months. All of this will be presented in the full and complete reports that will be laid before you during the Convention. Nor do I purpose at this time to elaborate upon the resolutions that will be presented on behalf of the Executive Committee, in respect either to the new work or to the changes in the structure of the Organization, that will better fit it to aid in making Palestine again a land capable of maintaining in decency and comfort a population of four millions or more, and thus worthy of being, as in the ancient days, the Jewish Homeland. I purpose briefly, but I hope clearly to indicate only certain of the fundamental practical consequences arising out of the changed conditions.

I said that the accomplishment of our purpose will require the united effort of the whole Jewish people. Let me analyze that sentence.

United—In this land, all of the people have learned the meaning and the value of democratic institutions. Discussion and difference of opinion are necessary and healthy up to the time of an election. After the vote is cast, the minority join with the majority in recognition of the elected representatives and in the common work that confronts all American citizens. A similar spirit must prevail in the ranks of Jewry. In our conferences and conventions and congress many differing views will be presented but when the vote is cast and the conflict decided, there must be a complete union of all forces in carrying out the policy that has prevailed. This is and ever has been the opinion of the Zionist Organization of America which now is and always has been an essential part of the World organization. To that organization it has given, and it ever will give its loyal support to the fullest possible extent. No one familiar with the facts instead of distorted accounts of the London Conference of last summer and of all that the Zionist Organization of America has done before and since that conference could have any doubt on this point. The American Organization has much to contribute in thought, in men and

in material assistance. In return it claims no special rights or special privileges, except only the privilege of doing more than can reasonably be asked of it.

United effort, however, does not mean that each part of the work must be done jointly by all the forces. The organizations in different lands may be peculiarly fitted for distinctive tasks. The Jews in different countries because of their differing histories and environments, have differing capabilities. To accomplish the most each must be used in that sphere of work to which it is best suited and in which it can render the greatest service. This is not separatism, but individualization of effort, it is distinctiveness in contribution which is not only sanctioned but stimulated by the World Organizations. For some specialized contributions to our common objectives will quicken the life of the world organization and solidify the union of federations which make the world organization.

Effort—Not talk, not theory, is required; work, not words. When we say that the era of propaganda has passed, we mean that the era of propaganda for theories is over. San Remo marks not merely the beginning of the actual establishment of Palestine as the recognized Jewish Homeland—it marks, too, the beginning of a changed propaganda—a propaganda through actual work of upbuilding, physical, economic, social and spiritual instead of simply propaganda thru the voice, the propaganda of achievement, not the propaganda merely of hope. This again does not imply that the spiritual and idealistic elements in Jewry are to be subordinated either in Palestine or in the Diaspora. There can be no question that the super-structure of Palestine must be reared on the solid rock of true Jewish consciousness in the fullest sense of the word, but the immediate task to which our organized efforts must be dedicated and directed is the stamping out of unnecessary disease, the reforestation of a devastated country, the harnessing of the water power and its conversion into electrical energy, the establishment of banks and other essential institutions, the development of the natural resources and the agriculture, the industry and the commerce of the country, the provision of the necessary housing for the increasing population, and the creation of all of these public utilities and facilities essential to a civilized community.

We do not seek to make Jewry a disembodied soul or to create a soulless Palestine. Therefore, hand in hand with these economic tasks must go the spiritual and cultural work in the Holy Land. Education particularly technical and vocational training must be supported, both in the lower and in the higher schools. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem must be devoted and dedicated not only to the sciences and the humanities in the narrower sense, but also to the intensification of the spiritual and religious life of the Jewish people,—the study and development of Judaism.

The Whole Jewish People—Until the San Remo Treaty, the work of the

Zionist Organization was to convince all Jewry, yea all the world, of the justice of its claim for the realization of the Basle program, that Palestine might become the publicly recognized and legally secured homeland for the Jewish people. Since the San Remo Treaty the objective of the Zionist Organization is Palestine and its upbuilding. But this objective should not be ours alone. It is a task in which every Jew should participate. Whether or not those who have heretofore been

non-Zionists or even anti-Zionist share our theories and our ultimate aims, is immaterial. We welcome the co-operation of any Jew ready and willing to co-operate, from whatever motive, in the immediate task to which we, as an organization, are dedicated. The Zionist Organization claims no monopoly in the vast work of rebuilding the ancient homeland. And now that the first great step has been taken, now that the era of propaganda for Zionist theories has passed, now that

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